

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 HA-05 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 /109 W
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R 201300Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 841

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, XY
SUBJ: ECOWAS SUMMIT MEETING

BENINESE FORMIN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THE ECOWAS SUMMIT MEETING, DURING A MEETING WITH EMBASSY ECON OFFICER. ALTHOUGH THE BENINESE REMARKS WERE WORDED LARGELY IN GENERALITIES, THEY PLACED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ECOWAS IN BENIN'S PLANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE OFFICIALS SEEMED PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE ACCORDS OF TARIFF REDUCTION AND MUTUAL NON-AGGRESSION. HOWEVER, THEY SHOWED SOMEWHAT LESS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS. THE BENINESE NOTED THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE MOVEMENT, THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED MUST BE STUDIED CLOSELY BEFORE ANY ACTION CAN BE CONTEMPLATED.

2. COMMENT: THE BENINESE UNDERLINE STRONGLY THEIR TOTAL COMMITMENT TO ECOWAS (BENIN HAS NEVER JOINED OTHER FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES IN THE COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES.) NEVERTHELESS, THE QUESTION OF FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES RAISES THE SECURITY QUESTION, A VERY TICKLISH SUBJECT FOR A COUNTRY WITH STRONG MEMORIES OF LAST YEAR'S
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"MERCENARY INVASION." THUS, THE BENINESE CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROCEED VERY CAUTIOUSLY WITH RESPECT TO THE OPENING UP OF BORDER.
THOMPSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Subject: ECOWAS SUMMIT MEETING BENINESE FORMIN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THE ECOWAS SUMMIT MEETING, DURING A MEETING W
TAGS: ECON, XY
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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